

SUSTAINABILITY

SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS QUARTERLY

ISSUE TWO

Dear ,

Welcome to the latest summary of news and thought leadership from our [sustainability team](#).

Contrary to expectations, the pandemic has not slowed commitments to sustainability, with investors flocking to companies with strong ESG metrics.

We're also seeing supply chains come under scrutiny, with new legislation in the UK and EU requiring due diligence disclosures. More generally, local suppliers are becoming preferable to more distant international ones.

It's clear that sustainability is now a global concern: China has pledged to become [climate neutral by 2060](#), while in the EU, stimulus plans have been explicitly tied to green objectives. The US does not have any sustainability plans at the federal level, but private investors continue to press for change and local governments are also reimagining their recovery. Indeed, our New York Circular City Initiative shows that city governments and agencies recognise sustainability's transformative power to create jobs and economic growth when working in concert with business and society.

You can read more about these developments below. For further insights on climate change, human rights, sustainable finance and corporate governance, visit our [sustainability blog](#).

Kind regards,

Tim Wilkins
Global Partner for Client Sustainability



WATCH

New York Circular City Initiative

Through the intelligent use of products and raw materials, the [New York Circular City Initiative](#) (convened by Freshfields and launched on 1 October) aims to eliminate landfill, minimise environmental pollution and create thousands of jobs. The report ['Complex Challenges, Circular Solutions'](#) elaborates on the vision and sets out a roadmap that could offer a model for cities facing similar challenges.

[Read our blog post on the launch](#) →

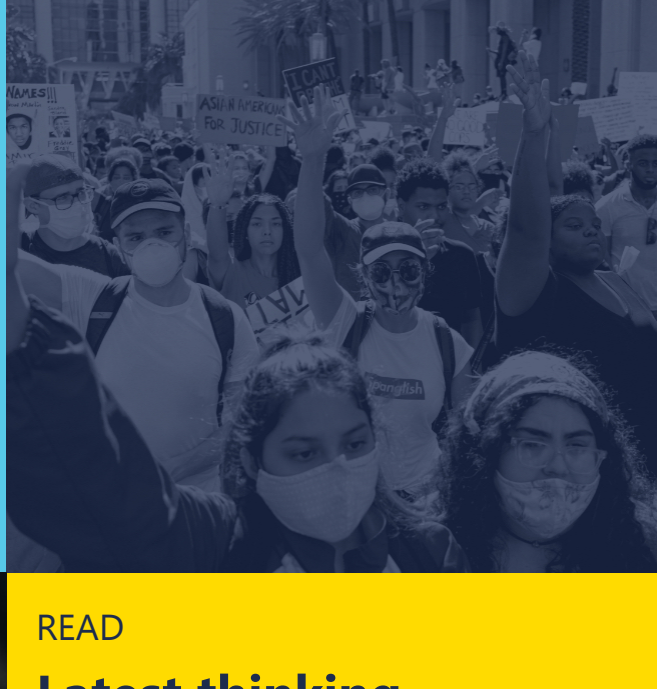
[Watch the recording of the launch](#) →

EVENT

Race, sustainability and social justice: a conversation with the Wilkins brothers

Can the latest efforts to achieve racial equality and justice bring about real and lasting change? Brothers [David B. Wilkins](#), Lester Kissel Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Centre for the Legal Profession at Harvard Law School, and [Timothy A. Wilkins](#), Freshfields Global Partner for Client Sustainability, will engage in a frank discussion on the challenges ahead, and the role of leaders in business and the legal profession.

[Register now](#) →



READ

Latest thinking

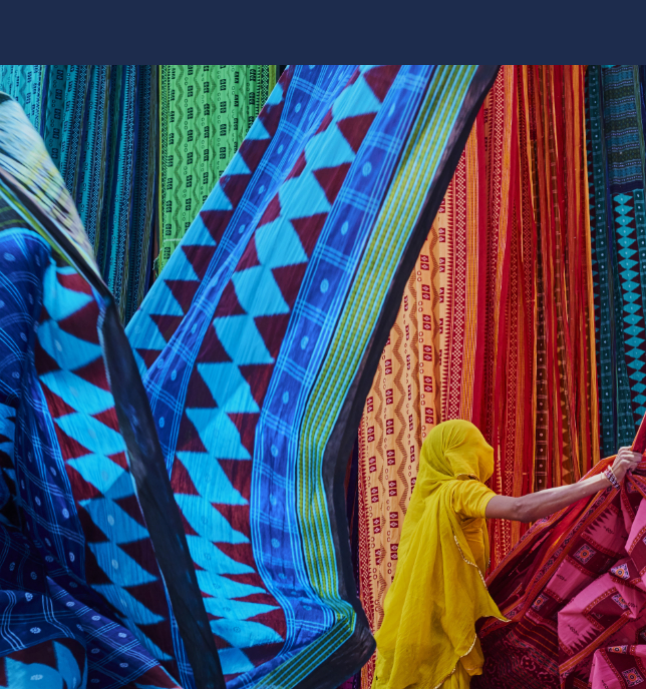
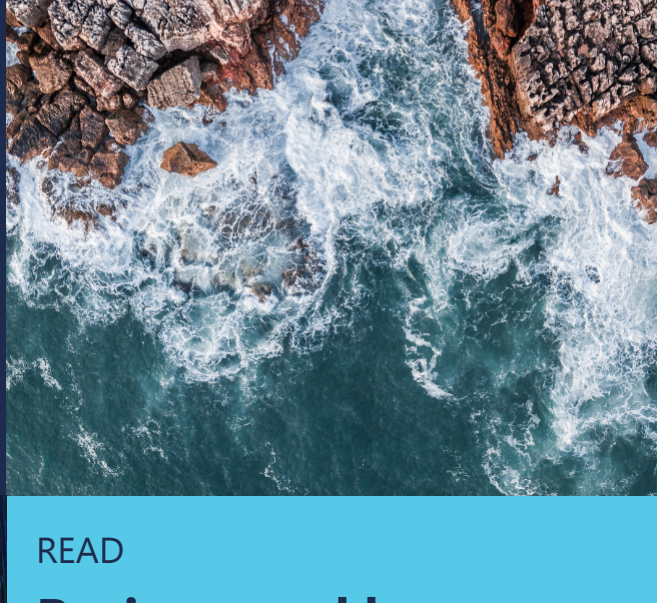
- Diversity in boardrooms continues to gain momentum →
- 'Green' competition law: sustainable collaboration or anticompetitive collusion? →
- The growing role of in-house lawyers in supporting sustainability ambitions →
- European Commission adopts revised Emissions Trading System state aid guidelines →
- ACM targets 'greenwashing': practical guidance on sales practices involving sustainability claims →
- Sustainable due diligence? A look at the UK's new deforestation consultation →

EVENT

Financing a Resilient Future: UNEP Global Roundtable

[UNEP FI's biennial Global Roundtable](#) on 13-14 October 2020 is an agenda-setting virtual event that brings together decision-makers, experts and thought leaders. We hope you can join us for the 'A Legal Framework for Impact: Investing for Sustainability Impact' session (13 October 2020, 4.40 pm CET), which will include Freshfields partner [David Rouch](#).

[Register now](#) →



READ

Business and human rights

Human rights risks in global supply chains are translating into legal, reputational and financial risks for multinational companies. As [our blog explains](#), Freshfields partnered with the [United Nations Global Compact](#) to produce the 'Navigating the legal landscape' report, which provides insights on key developments across multiple jurisdictions.

[Read the full report](#) →

TEAM

Meet the team

[Don Stokes](#) is a member of our global sustainability leadership group and head of our Asia infrastructure practice, based in Singapore and Vietnam.

A significant part of his practice involves renewable energy financing and impact investing, including for the Asian Development Bank, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Almost all of the matters which the Asia infrastructure team on have an environmental or social element, or are driven by climate change. At the heart of what the team does is helping 'emerging Asia' actually emerge and develop, and supporting development financiers in their mission to alleviate poverty and invest in people.



TEAM

[Vanessa Jakovich](#) is a member of our global sustainability leadership group and a global transactions partner in London specialising in environment, planning and regulatory law.

She has a passion for sustainability and innovation, having spent much of her career working on first-of-a-kind energy transition projects, and helping clients manage environmental issues in transactions and investments. Whilst environmental issues have always dominated Vanessa's daily work, she is very excited to be working increasingly alongside lawyers across all practice areas and geographical regions of the firm to help our clients embrace sustainability as a business-shaping goal.

LISTEN

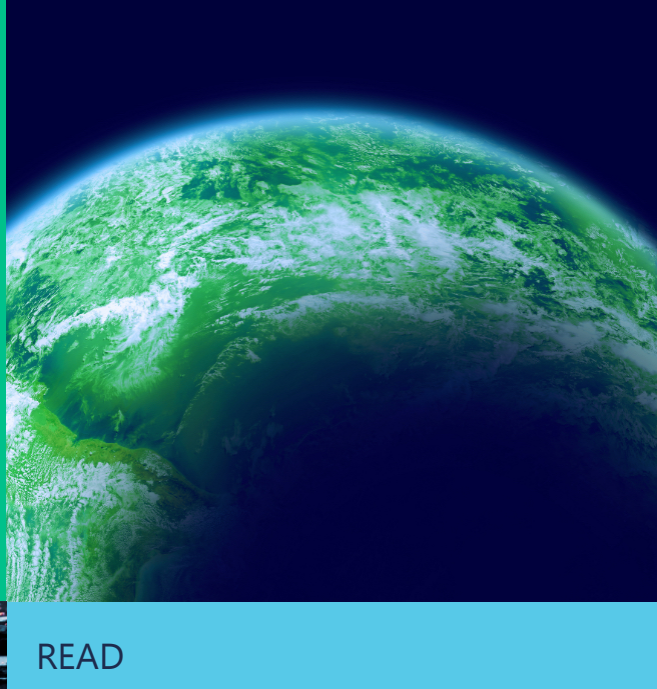
How can law firms improve sustainability and their social impact?

Pamela Cone of [Amity Advisory](#) asks [Timothy Wilkins](#) and [Oliver Dudok van Heel](#) of Freshfields about what law firms can do to improve their sustainability efforts and social impact in two podcasts:

[Timothy Wilkins on sustainability and social impact](#)

[Oliver Dudok van Heel on sustainability and social impact](#)

More audio insights are available on our [sustainability podcasts page](#).

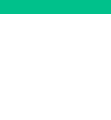


READ

Rethinking the supply chain

Even before COVID-19, trade wars were driving the 'reshoring' of production and the adoption of digital technologies such as AI to improve supply chain management. But the disruption caused by the pandemic has ratcheted up pressure on manufacturers and added a new dimension. As part of our [Beyond the pandemic](#) series we examine the emerging trends and the legal issues involved in structuring supply chains that are fit for the future.

[Find out more](#) →



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